

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1102

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USINT HAVANA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XA, CU, GB, UR, MPOL

SUBJECT: SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 134913

FOLLOWING IS BRIEF EMBASSY DESCRIPTION OF WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE APPROXIMATION PRESIDENT BONGO'S VIEWS KEYED TO NUMBERED QUESTIONS REFTEL:

1. SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IS PRIMARITY SEEN AS DESTABILIZING POWER THRUST AIMED AT ESTABLISHING AREAS OF SOVIET/CUBAN INFLUENCE FROM WHICH EVENTUALLY TO SEIZE AND EXERCISE CONTROL OVER OTHER AFRICAN STATES AND RESOURCES.

2. MODERATE STATES ARE BEING SURROUNDED AND THREATENED WITHOUT ADEQUATE SUPPORT FROM WEST. AMONG PROBLEMS CAUSED IS NECESSITY TO DEVOTE SCARCE RESOURCES TO MILITARY PREPAREDNESS.

3. TO MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES INCLUDING MILITARY AGREEMENTS WITH FRANCE. ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT MODERATE STATES WITH MATERIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES TO HELP FACE DOWN SOVIETS. PRESIDENT BONGO WOULD PERSONALLY PROBABLY LIKE TO SEE OAU OR FRANCOPHONE STATES TAKE SOME POSITIVE ACTION TO COUNTER PERCEIVED THREAT CAUSED BY SOVIET OR CUBAN BACKED AFRICAN ELEMENTS, AND HAS PUBLICLY SUPPORTED CREATION OF FRANCOPHONE FORCE BUT WITHOUT REFERENCE

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TO SOVIETS OR CUBANS. WHETHER HE CONTINUES PUSH IDEA AFTER HE NO LONGER CHAIRMAN OF OAU REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IN ANY CASE, IT UNLIKELY HE WILL LINK SOVIETS AND CUBANS WITH IDEA PUBLICLY EXCEPT BY IMPLICATION.

4. SOVIET/CUBAN ROLE CONTRIBUTES TO EXACERBATION OF EXISTING DIVISIONS AMONG AFRICAN STATES. TIENKEN

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